

## Plup Traction Technique for the Operative Treatment of Bony Mallet Finger

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**Objective:** Clinical assessment of the surgical technique with pulp traction for bony mallet finger.

**Materials and Methods:** Eighteen bony mallet finger deformity patients underwent surgery using pulp traction and pull-out wire fixation or 5-0 nylon tendon repair technique from March 2003 to August 2004. The deformities were classified according to Wehbe and Schneider's classification. Surgical indications included fragment involving more than 1/3 of the articular surface, diastasis more than 3mm, and subluxation of the distal interphalangeal joint irreducible by closed reduction.

**Results:** The results were assessed by Modified Abouana and Brown criteria. Seventeen cases were rated as success and one case was rated failure. Of the Seventeen successful cases, none had extension lag or joint stiffness while all were cosmetically acceptable with patients' satisfaction. One failure case showed extension lag of twenty degrees. There was no case of infection, skin necrosis, joint stiffness, extensor tendon

rupture, or wire breakage. There were two cases of minor nail deformity which eventually healed spontaneously and one case with epiphyseal arrest.

**Conclusion:** Pulp traction technique may allow wider surgical field, accurate reduction with lesser complications and acceptable clinical outcomes.

**Key Words:** Mallet finger, Pulp traction, Pull-out wire fixation

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1-7  
가 , 가 1/3  
, 3 mm  
가 4,5,8,9  
가  
, K-  
,  
10  
(lag screw)  
10, 8 (tension  
band wiring)

Wehbe and Schneider<sup>5</sup>(Table 2)

Modified Abouna and Brown<sup>3</sup> (Table 3)

3.

1.

2003 3 2004 8 . 0.045 K- 14 , 4 2 cm K-

wire fixation) 5-0 (pull-out (Fig. 1), T- 가

18 (Table 1). 가 24 (gauge) K-

(extension lag) , . (Fig. 2). 15

2. 0.032 K- 23 (button-hole

**Table 1.** Patients data and Results

Case	Sex	Age	finger	Type	Duration of deformity (day)	Method	Pre-operative extension lag( )	Post-operative extension lag( )	Fixation of bony fragment	Post-operative ROM at DIP joint ( )	Complication
1	M	33	2	IIB	5	P	40	10	+	55	
2	M	26	3	IIB	7	P	35	0	-	70	
3	M	38	4	IIB	12	P	40	10	-	50	
4	M	17	3	IIIA	20	T	20	0	-	70	
5	F	33	4	IB	13	T	45	5	+	60	
6	M	36	5	IIB	11	P	15	5	+	65	
7	F	43	2	IB	4	T	33	10	+	65	nail deformity
8	M	28	3	IIB	49	P	20	10	-	60	
9	M	16	4	IIIA	6	T	50	0	-	55	epiphyseal arrest
10	M	34	3	IIB	16	P	20	5	-	65	
11	F	29	3	IIB	14	P	28	0	-	70	
12	M	46	3	IIB	6	P	15	0	+	55	
13	M	41	5	IIB	24	T	20	0	-	70	nail deformity
14	M	36	3	IIB	30	P	47	20	-	45	extension lag
15	M	35	5	IB	7	T	35	0	+	70	
16	M	39	4	IIB	5	P	17	10	-	55	
17	M	62	4	IIB	24	P	30	0	+	65	
18	M	24	4	IB	21	T	40	5	+	70	

M: male , F : female, P : pull out wire fixation , T : 5-0 nylon tendon repair, ROM : range of motion , DIP : distal interphalangeal

deformity) K-  
(Fig. 3). 18  
11 24  
(monofilament stainless wire)  
tie-  
over anchor (Fig. 4), 7  
23  
5-0  
(tenodesis) (Fig. 5A,B).  
4  
6 K-  
, 6 K-

1.  
가 15 , 가 3 가 11 ,  
가 7 . 34.2 (16 ~ 62  
)  
7 ,  
3 , 2 , 6 가  
가 3 , 6 ,  
4 , 5  
3 가 7 가 , 4  
가 6 , 5 가 3 , 2 가 2 ,  
Wehbe and Schneider Type  
IIB가 12 가 , type IB가 4 , type  
IIIA가 2 .

**Table 2.** Wehbe and Schneider 's classification<sup>5</sup>

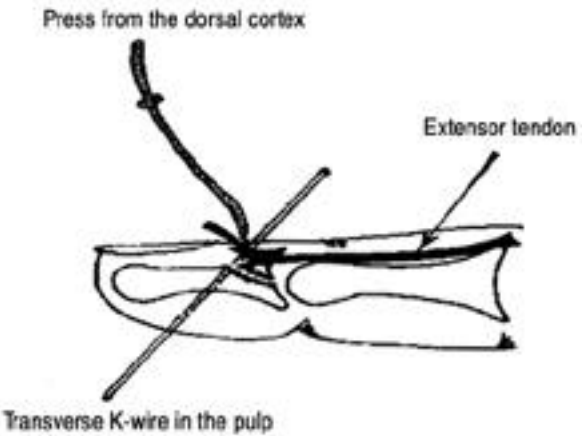
Type	
I	Fractures include bone injuries of varying extent without subluxation of the distal interphalangeal joint
II	Fractures are associated with subluxation of the distal interphalangeal joint
III	Epiphyseal and physeal injury
Subtypes	
A	Fracture fragment involving less than one third of the articular surface of the distal phlanx
B	Fracture fragment involving one third to two thirds of the articular surface
C	Fracture fragment involving more than two thirds of the articular surface

**Table 3.** Modified Abouna and Brown Criteria<sup>3</sup>

Treatment success	
	Extension lag < 10 degrees
	No distal interphalangeal joint stiffness or loss of flexion
	Cosmetic acceptance by patient
	Patient satisfaction
Treatment failure	
	Extension lag > 10 degrees
	Associated distal interphalangeal joint stiffness or loss of flexion
	Cosmetic unacceptable
	Patient dissatisfaction



**Fig. 1.** The picture shows pulp traction using K-wire. A 0.045 K-wire is inserted horizontally through the pulp of distal phalanx, leaving 2 cm of wire at both sides.



**Fig. 2.** Figure shows the related anatomical landmarks in pulp traction. Reduction can be achieved by pressing the dorsal cortex of the distal phalanx, the anatomical landmark of pulp traction.

2.

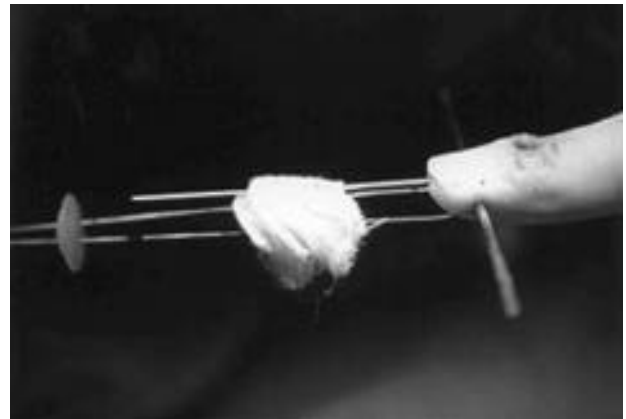
가 7 , 1 2 가 4 , 2 15.2 , 1  
가 6 , 4 6 가 1 . 4  
12 (9 ~ 16 ) .

3.

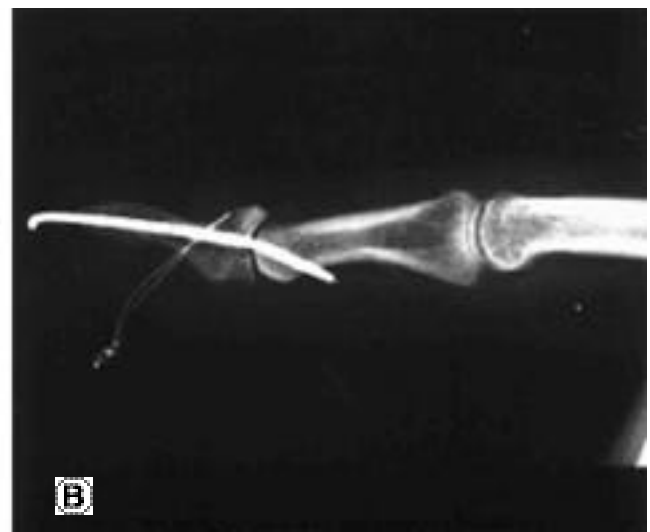
Modified Abouna and Brown 가  
17 (93.7%) 가 , 1  
(6.3%) 가 .  
(20 )  
30.6 (15 ~ 50 )  
5 (0 ~ 20 )  
61.9 (45 ~ 70  
)  
가 ,  
K-  
(10 ) (8 )  
( $p > 0.05$ ).  
가  
가 가

4.

가 17 2  
, 1  
13 , ,  
, .



**Fig. 4.** In fixation of avulsed terminal tendon, a no. 24 monofilament stainless wire is inserted through the distal phalanx and fixed to a button placed over the distal phalanx by tie-over anchoring.



**Fig. 3.** Radiograph shows prevention of button hole deformities in the reduction of Mallet finger. To prevent iatrogenic button-hole deformities, the K-wire is bent and fixation at the distal interphalangeal joint.

3 mm 가

Clement Wray<sup>14</sup> 9 , 가 , 가

1/3 mm , 3

가 , Wehbe Schneidef (articular , ,

incongruity) , 10, 8 ,

가

15. McCue 가

Abbott<sup>6</sup>, Weinberg<sup>17</sup> 1/3

가

, Niejachev<sup>4</sup> 가 가 Stern<sup>10</sup> Wehbe<sup>5</sup>



**Fig. 5.** (A) Radiograph shows pre-operative picture of Mallet finger. (B) Radiograph shows post-operative X-ray of pulp traction, end-to-end anastomosis between extensor tendons, and criss-cross K-wires fixation.



, K-  
(transarticular fixation) 가  
K- 가 9  
6 (66.7%) 가 , tie-over anchor  
25 13 (52.0%) T-  
17 2  
(17.7%)  
Ishiguro<sup>18</sup> Extension block K-  
가 17 , 가 1  
20 , 가  
가 1 가 4 , K- 23  
가  
2  
1  
6  
가  
K- , 가  
19  
T- 4  
2 가  
50 , 가  
(Swan neck deformity)  
20 1  
K-  
(septum)  
가 , 가

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